Curry County
Board of Commissioners

David Brock Smith, *Vice Chair*

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October 28, 2014

Honorable John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor of Oregon
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Honorable Governor Kitzhaber,

I hope this letter finds you well. On October 25th, 2014, Curry County was hit by a severe storm event that has caused significant infrastructure damage to Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative Inc., the Port of Port Orford as well as local residents. Northern Curry County suffered the most infrastructure damage with the Port of Port Orford having the most severe damage. This was due to abnormally high tides coupled with the storm surge, which caused wave heights inundate the Port of Port Orford at over twenty six feet. (Please see enclosed photos on CD and NOAA graph)

Of serious concern is the breakwater at the Port of Port Orford. The breakwater sustained extensive structural damage due to the severe storm event which has prompted the United States Army Corps of Engineers to request Emergency Action and is outlined in our Declaration Resolution to you. The severe storm event and subsequent loss of critical infrastructure at the Port of Port Orford also; and most importantly threatens the life and safety of the fleet and has compromised the economic vitality of the local marine fishery which has fundamental economic benefits to Curry and Coos Counties, Oregon and the west coast of the United States.

Curry County does not have the resources to assist with the depth of infrastructure loss to our residents by this severe storm event. The direct and indirect costs associated with the damage caused by the storm could be in the tens of millions of dollars and exceed the County's ability to assist. On behalf of the Curry County Board of Commissioners, I humbly ask for your consideration and assistance in declaring a State of Emergency under ORS 401.165 on behalf of Curry County as outlined in our Resolution of Declaring a Local Emergency in Curry County and Requesting a Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency. Thank you in advance for your assistance as it will be greatly appreciated by our citizens, and the Board of Curry County Commissioners.

Very Respectfully,

David Brock Smith, Vice Chair
Curry County Board of Commissioners

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Renee' Kolen, County Clerk   10/28/2014 11:53:08 AM
Commissioners' Journal

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CURRY, OREGON

In the Matter of Declaring a Local   )
Emergency in Curry County and   )   RESOLUTION R201417
Requesting a Governor's   )
Declaration of a State of Emergency   )

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2014, a severe storm event swept through Curry County threatening life and destroying property; and

WHEREAS, the severe storm event has caused significant infrastructure damage to the Port of Port of Port Orford, Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative Inc., Curry County and Local Residents; and

WHEREAS, the severe storm event has displaced local residents with trees falling on their homes and uprooting has caused damage to service utility infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, Inc. preliminary damage report has costs being fairly significant and taking several weeks to fix all damaged infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Port Orford's preliminary infrastructure damage and loss assessment includes, but is not limited to the loss of structures into the ocean, significant structural and flood damage to remaining structures and the Port Office, damage to vessels, electrical systems, fuel station and possibly to the oil separator filter media; and

WHEREAS, the Port Commission has declared an emergency for the Port of Port Orford; and

WHEREAS, the severe storm event has caused sand infill of the recently dredged navigable channel; and

WHEREAS, the breakwater at the Port of Port Orford sustained extensive structural damage due to the severe storm event which has prompted the United States Army Corps of Engineers to request Emergency Action; and

WHEREAS, the severe storm event and subsequent loss of critical infrastructure at the Port of Port Orford threatens the life and safety of the fleet and has compromised the economic vitality of the local marine fishery which has fundamental economic benefits to Curry and Coos Counties, Oregon and the west coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Port Commission of the Port of Port Orford and the Curry County Board of Commissioners have determined that there is a need for state assistance to respond to and recover from the severe storm event and subsequent emergency condition;

WHEREAS, Curry County does not have the resources to assist with the depth of infrastructure loss to our residents by this severe storm event as the direct and indirect costs associated with the damage caused by the storm could be in the tens of millions of dollars and exceed the County's ability to assist;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY RESOLVES:

that a Local Emergency exists in Curry County; and

THE BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVES:

to request with this resolution, that John A. Kitzhaber M.D.; Governor of Oregon, declare a State of Emergency and consider Curry County an "emergency area" as provided for in ORS 401.165 and provide such assistance as requested by Curry County and available by the State of Oregon.

The Curry County Board of Commissioners further requests that the Governor request additional assistance from the President of the United States, if needed.

DATED this 28th day of October, 2014.

BOARD OF CURRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
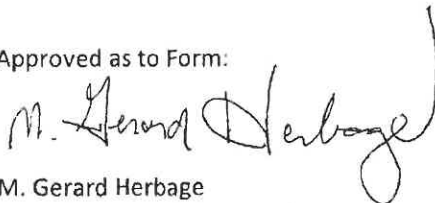
Absent

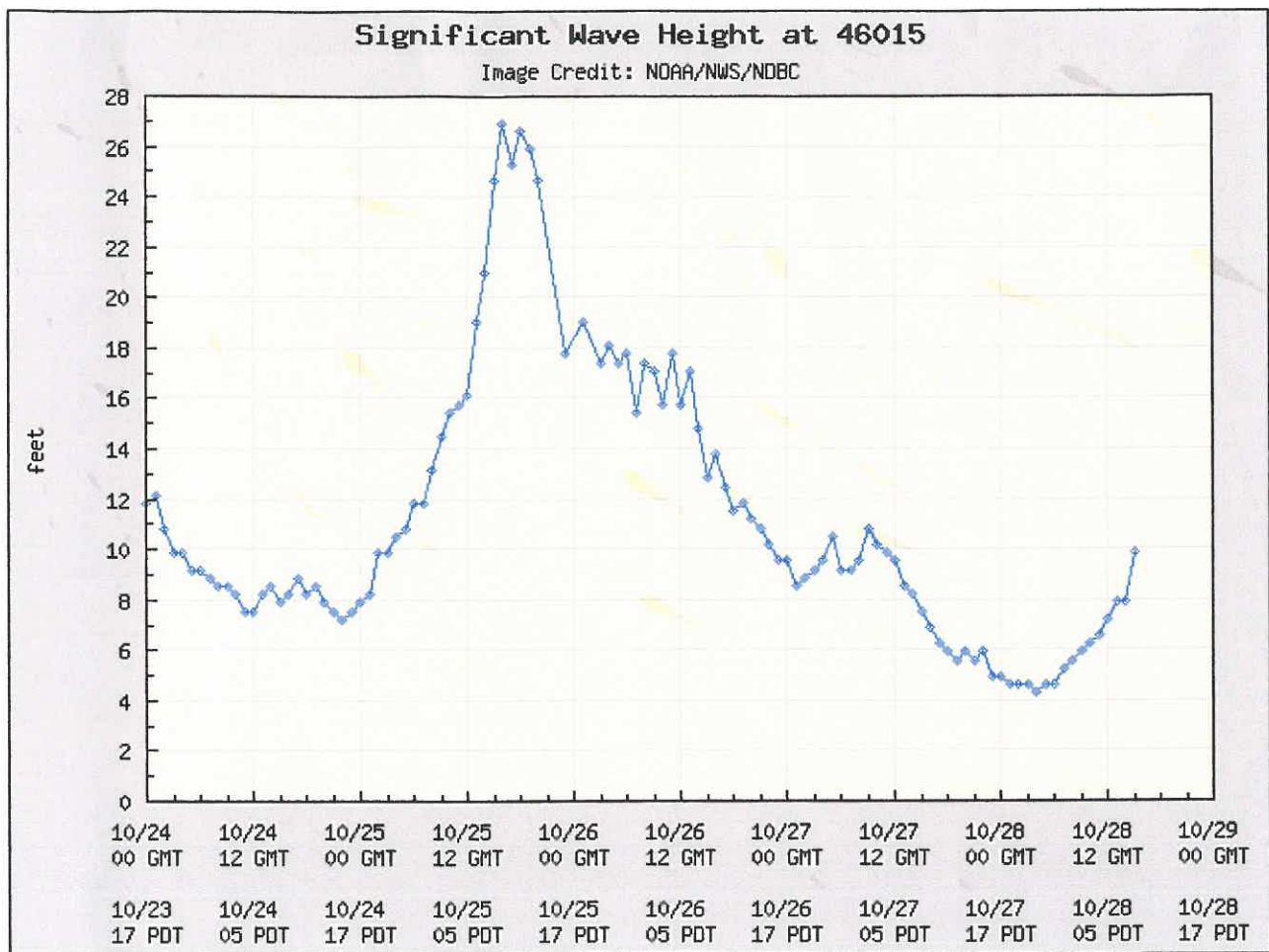Susan Brown, Chair

David Brock Smith, Vice Chair

David G. Itzen, Commissioner

Drafted By:
Commissioner David Brock Smith

Approved as to Form:

M. Gerard Herbage
Curry County Legal Counsel

Significant Wave Height at 46015
Image Credit: NOAA/NWS/NDBC